Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05999 071451Z ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /082 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2275

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANKGOK

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIA LBELGRADE 5999

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MY KN JA

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC BEHAVIOR

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 5673

1. FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, JAPANESE EMBOFF TOLD POLOFF THAT AT SEPT 1 OPENING OF A SOVIET EXHIBIT, NORTH KOREAN EMBOFF SHOOK HANDS WITH HIM AND EXCHANGED A FEW PLEASANTRIES (IN SERBO-CROATIAN) BEFORE GOING OFF. JAPANESE WHO IS WELL KNOWN THROUGH DIP COMMUNITY SAID THAT FORMERLY SAME AND OTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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NORTH KOREANS HAD MERELY IGNORED HIM.

2. FEW DAYS EARLIER SAME POLOFF WHILE WAITING AT A GAS PUMP WAS WATCHING A NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY CAR DRIVE PAST WHEN SUDDENLY THE DRIVER LOOKED AT THE POLOFF'S LICENCE TAG, SMILED, AND APPEARED TO ALMOST WAVE BEFORE DRIVING AWAY. (YUGOSLAV DIP PLATES INDICATE THE EMBASSIES

TO WHICH CARS ARE REGISTERED.)

3. WE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THIS BEHAVIOR BUT BELIEVE JAPANESE EMBOFF MIGHT BE ON RIGHT TRACK WHEN HE SUGGESTED THAT NORTH KOREANS ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE (PERHAPS IN PART THROUGH YUGOSLAV PRODDING) THAT THEY MUST CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOR IN ORDER TO SCORE POINTS AT UN, IN NAM, AND IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. HOW PAINFUL IT MUST BE FOR THEM. EAGLEBURGER

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NNN

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